15th March 1923]

A.—In the reply to question No. 605 (*b*) at the meeting of the Council on 12th October 1921, the Government did not promise any special steps. The Government's attitude was defined in the last sentence under clause (*b*) of the answer to that question. No question was then asked as regards Adi-Dravida inspectors.

The Government have no information as to the number of applications received for such appointments from qualified Muhammadans or Adi-Dravidas but will obtain the information.

Touring expenses of Ministers and Members of Council.

890 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja: With reference to the answer given to question No. 257 on the 15th September 1922, regarding touring expense of His Excellency the Governor and the Members of the Government, will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased—

(*a*) to state what portion out of the total charges of touring expenses given in that answer for each Minister and Member of Council was actually drawn by each of them for expenses incurred by each, and what portion thereof was the money credited to the Railways by way of adjustment or otherwise; and

(*b*) to give the amounts of expenditure under the above classification for the period from 31st March 1922 to 31st December 1922?

A.—The Accountant-General has been asked to furnish the information asked for.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"May I ask, Sir, as to whom the information will be furnished? May I suggest, Sir, that it should be laid on the table of the House?"

The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter:—"I have no objection to laying the information on the table of the House."

II

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1923-24

DEMAND X—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter:—"Mr. President, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 15·51 *lakhs under Demand X. General Administration—Secretariats, etc.*

Sir, the House will observe that I am asking for a sum which is less by Rs. 33,000 than the amount set down on the agenda. The reason for this is that I am following the example of the hon. the Finance Member of the Government of India in dealing with the reductions recommended by the Inchcape Committee. In the present instance, since the Budget was printed, it has been decided to amend it with reference to the salary of the hon. the Ministers who have offered to accept a reduction in their salaries each by Rs. 1,000 a month with effect from the 1st April next. The Council accepted this reduction with acclamation the other day when I announced it in the course of my Budget speech. The salary for March being paid in April, this reduction will not appear in the accounts until the month of May and that is why the reduction for next year is only Rs. 33,000. I therefore propose to reduce the amount shown under Ministers from Rs. 1,92,000 to Rs. 1,59,000 and consequently the total amount of the Demand that I move is 15·51 lakhs."